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(58) Field of search

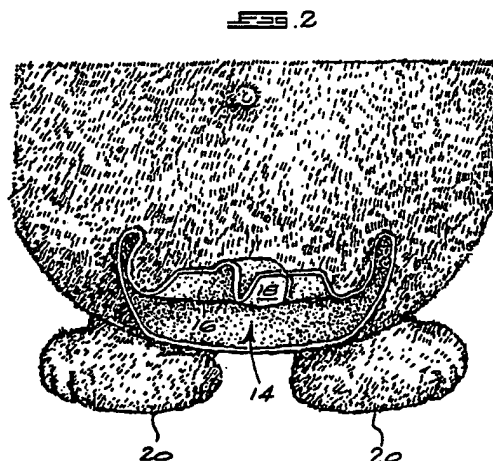
A6S

Selected US specifications from IPC sub-classes

A63H G09B

(54) Soft animal toys

(57) A soft animal toy, e.g. a teddy bear, includes a parent animal toy and one or more baby animal toys (not shown) which can be accommodated inside an abdominal cavity of the parent. The cavity is closable by flap 16/18. The toy also includes a container (figures 4, 5) for the parent toy which is representative of a sleeping bag or bed and which has shoulder straps enabling it to be carried back-pack style by a child.



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FIG. 1

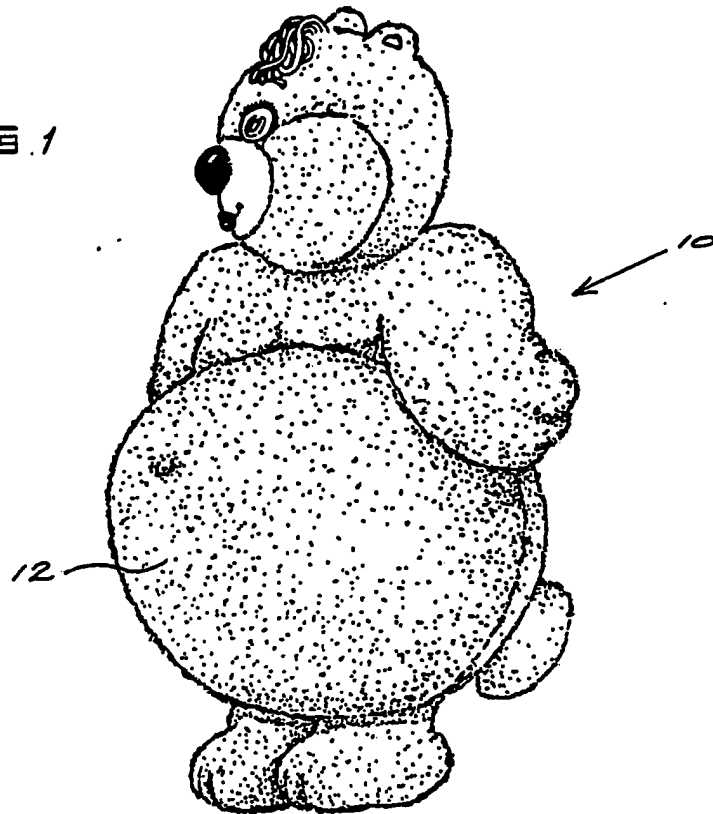
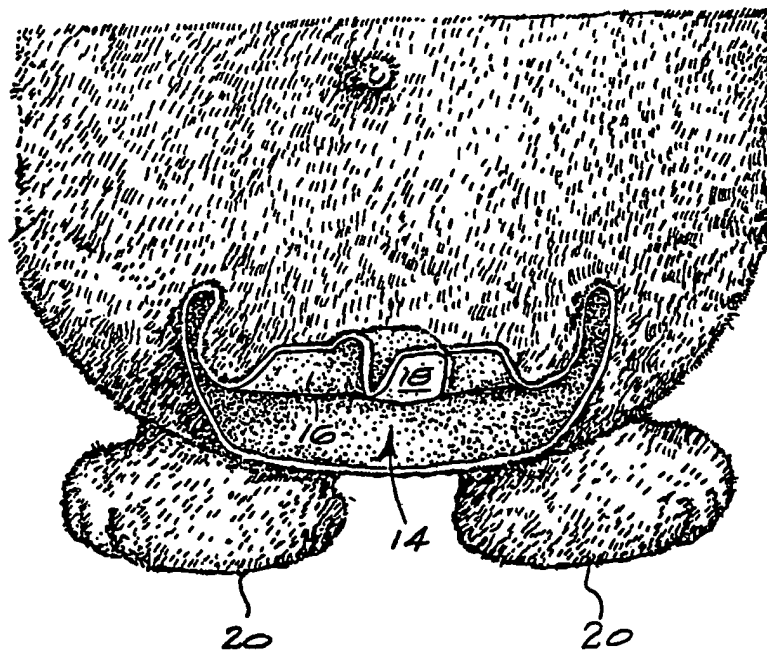


FIG. 2



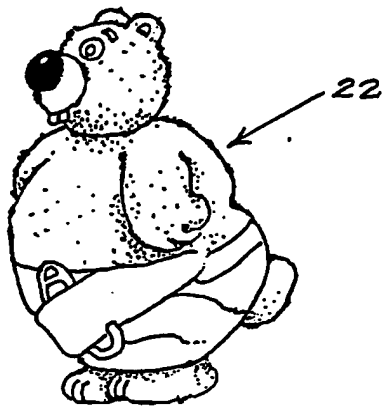


FIG 3

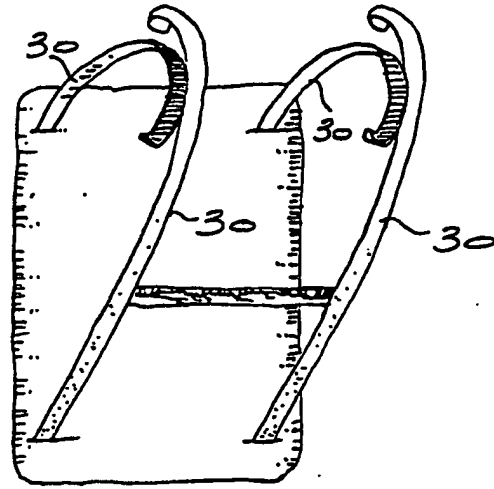


FIG 5

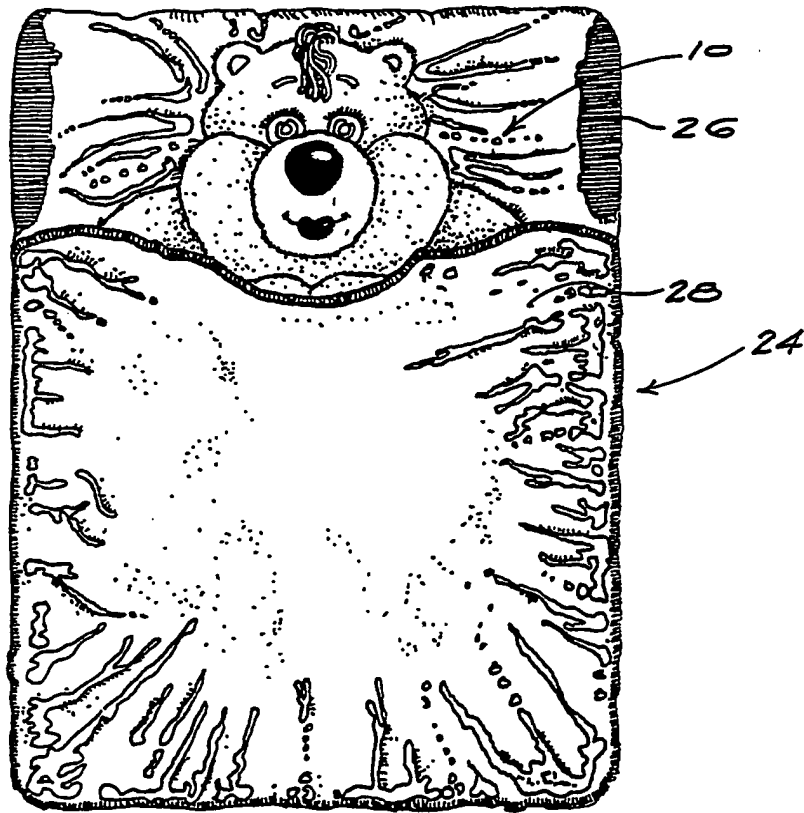


FIG 4

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SOFT ANIMAL TOYS

This invention relates to soft animal toys.

Soft animal toys have been marketed widely for many years and are still extremely popular with young children. Examples of such toys are teddy bears, dogs and so forth.

It is the object of the invention to provide a soft animal toy which has novelty value and which also serves an educational function.

According to the invention, there is provided a soft animal toy which comprises a parent animal toy having an abdominal cavity, a closable opening leading to the abdominal cavity from the outside and, located within the abdominal cavity, at least one baby animal toy which can be withdrawn from the abdominal cavity through the opening.

In a preferred version of the invention, the abdomen of the parent animal toy is distended when it accommodates the at least one baby animal toy, thereby to give the impression that the parent toy is pregnant.

Further according to the invention, the toy includes a container for the parent animal toy, such container representing a bed or sleeping bag for the parent animal toy. Preferably, the container is fitted with shoulder straps by means of which it can be carried on the back of a child.

One embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 shows a perspective view of a parent teddy bear;  
Figure 2 shows a view of the lower abdomen of the teddy bear of Figure 1;  
Figure 3 shows a baby teddy bear;  
Figure 4 shows a container for the teddy bear of Figure 1; and  
Figure 5 shows a rear view of the container seen in Figure 4.

Figure 1 shows a parent teddy bear 10 which is of soft, furry construction with an appearance intended to appeal to small children. The teddy bear 10 has an enlarged abdomen 12 which gives it the appearance of being pregnant.

As shown by Figure 2, the lower part of the abdomen of the teddy bear 10 has an opening 14 which can be closed by means of a flexible flap 16. The flap 16 has a tongue 18 carrying a Velcro (RTM) fastener by means of which the flap can be held in position once it has been pulled closed over the opening 14 and between two legs 20 of the teddy bear 10. The opening 14 leads to an abdominal cavity of the parent teddy bear 10. The toy of the invention also includes one or more baby teddy bears 22 which are considerably smaller in size than the parent teddy bear 10. When one or more baby teddy bears 22 are located inside the abdominal cavity of the teddy bear 10, the abdomen thereof has the distended appearance of Figure 1. When the baby teddy bears are withdrawn from the abdominal cavity through the opening 14, the abdomen of the teddy bear 10 reverts to a flatter non-pregnant shape.

Figure 4 shows a flexible container 24 for the teddy bear 10. The container 24, which is representative of a sleeping bag or bed, includes a rear sheet 26 and a smaller front sheet 28 which is sewn to the rear sheet along three of its edges. When the teddy bear 10 is placed inside the container, its head pokes out beyond the sheet 28 as illustrated.

Sewn to the rear sheet 26 of the container 24 are shoulder straps 30 carrying Velcro (RTM) fasteners at their free ends. When the straps are connected, they can be placed over a child's

shoulders, thereby enabling the child to carry the container and its contents in the manner of a knapsack.

A non-illustrated feature of the toy is the provision of miniature clothes such as dresses for the teddy bear 10. As shown by Figure 3, the baby teddy bear 22 has a fitted nappy.

Not only does the illustrated toy have novelty value which it is believed will be appealing to small children, but it also serves an educational function in that it will assist small children to understand the prenatal stage in the life of an infant.

Note the invention is not only applicable to toys representative of bears but also of other non-human animal types.

## CLAIMS

1.

A soft animal toy which comprises a parent animal toy having an abdominal cavity, a closable opening leading to the abdominal cavity from the outside and, located within the abdominal cavity, at least one baby animal toy which can be withdrawn from the abdominal cavity through the opening.

2.

The soft animal toy of claim 1 wherein the abdomen of the parent animal toy is distended when it accommodates the at least one baby animal toy, thereby to give the impression that the parent toy is pregnant.

3.

The soft animal toy of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the parent and baby animal toys are respectively larger and smaller teddy bears.

4.

The soft animal toy of any of the preceding claims wherein the toy includes a container for the parent animal toy, such container representing a bed or sleeping bag for the parent animal toy.

5.

The soft animal toy of claim 3 wherein the container is fitted with shoulder straps by means of which it can be carried on the back of a child.

6.

A soft animal toy substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.